

**Testimony Concerning SB 445
Farmington Police Department
Animal Control Division**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of **Senate Bill 445**.

I have been the Farmington Municipal Animal Control Officer for over 21 years and I was previously a Veterinary Assistant for eighteen years. I am continually involved with domestic and wild animals when on and off duty.

I can say from my personal experience and observation that commercially bred puppies are not treated with the compassion and care that they require and deserve. Commercially bred pets are not socialized nor housed in adequate shelter that they require to thrive.

When I speak with someone who has purchased a commercially bred puppy through a pet shop, they agree that they are opposed to puppy mills but they buy a pet because they "feel sorry" for what the puppy has been through.

I believe that among the **Task Force recommendations** to regulate and prevent the sale of dogs and cats from inhumane origins that Connecticut pet shops be required to meet a standard of care to ensure that families who purchase a pet in Connecticut are protected and that this will in turn have an impact on the breeding animals that supply off spring to Connecticut pet stores.

I also believe that the goals of the **Task Force recommendations** including:

that the USDA inspection reports be required to be posted for the public,

that breeders be licensed only if they do not have prior violations of USDA regulations and or animal neglect or abuse convictions,

that the "Puppy Lemon Law" be amended to require vet services and medications if a puppy becomes ill or dies within 20 days of purchase or is diagnosed with a congenital condition within 6 months of sale, require payment from the seller,

and that criminal penalties be established for violations of animal importer and pet shop statutes and regulations.

I am a registered voter in Burlington, and I am the Municipal Animal Control Officer with the Farmington Police Department. I have witnessed the results of inadequate and unregulated breeding practices and families without recourse after extensive veterinary care or the loss of a commercially bred puppy. I have witnessed the inadequate sheltering and care of breeding animals and their litters that are then purchased by the public.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify and request that you will strongly support this important animal legislation.

Thank you,

Charlene W. Rogers
Burlington Connecticut